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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

S E C R E T

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1. Shortly after Stalin's death, rumors circulating within Albania stated that there would be a mitigation of Communist terror. The probable disappearance of concentration camps, especially the Tepelene Camp where thousands of relatives of exiles are languishing, was also mentioned. Actually these rumors proved false. Instead, young women were taken from all villages, organized into labor companies and sent off to do forced labor far from their homes. This move by the Hoxha Government was unfavorably received by the people because the sanctity of Albanian women is a delicate point. Many suicides took place; acts of rebellion followed only to be met by merciless reprisals.
2. The Albanian people are utterly tired and depressed, and particularly indignant and discouraged at the quarrels among the Albanian emigration in the West. The useless entry of missions sent into Albania by the Yugoslavs have caused terrible reprisals such as arrests, executions, confinement to concentration camps, and sequestration and requisition of property. The population wants no more of such activity, although it is ready to rise as one man if the Western powers will take definite action to overthrow the country's current regime.
3. Hundreds of Albania's best young men have been sacrificed in vain to Yugoslavia's useless operational undertakings. To this number must be added the lives lost by those who had the temerity to give shelter to their compatriots coming from Yugoslavia. Any operational mission sent into Albania, unless it is the advance guard for positive and imminent military insurrection supported from abroad, can achieve only a negative effect. On the other hand radio propaganda should be intensified. Albanians listen to programs directed at the country from abroad; many Communist's whose convictions are none too strong listen to these broadcasts and even spread their reports by word of mouth.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. A religious reawakening is taking place in the Shkoder region. Priests are lacking, however, and in the Malessia area where there once were five or six churches, there is now only one. The Catholic clergy with its numerous martyrs to Albania's Communism and by its exemplary behavior before its guards and gallows has acquired enormous popular admiration. Despite the dangers involved, the churches are filled by the faithful. In the entire region only two Franciscan Brothers, Rok Vala and Rok Gurashi are not well spoken of.
5. The majority of the Albanian people firmly believe that Albania's salvation can come about only as the result of a third world war. The country's Communists maintain that any delay in the coming of a third world war will work to their benefit. The older generation is disappearing, while the younger generation has been thoroughly indoctrinated with Communist ideals. However, despite that attitude among its young, practically all of Albania's intermediate students are against Communism. Clandestine anti-Communist associations are constantly being discovered and arrests are numerous.
6. It is generally believed in Albania that ex-King Zog would not have the slightest chance of restoring his monarchy. Among the youth in the country there is an apparent tendency towards a moderate form of socialism. Fishta, the Albanian poet eliminated as a warmonger (actually, however, because of his writings glorifying the struggle of Albanians against the Slav invader), is greatly venerated by today's students, all of whom are able to recite long passages by memory.

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